

MA/RI -TACF Winter Meeting Minutes February 4, 2017

Wachusett Meadow Audubon, Princeton, MA

Morning Orchard Meeting

Present: Lois Melican, Denis Melican, Paul Wetzel, Dave Lent, Mark Meehl, Brian Clark, Karen Jones, Rich Hoffman, Jamie Donald, Gray Curtis, John Meiklejohn, Rufin Van Bossuyt, Yvonne Federowicz, Kathy Desjardin

Guests: Sean Parker

Sean: Endangered plant farm -- seed farm or educational area

Bee and butterfly sanctuary -- pollinators

Reduce mowed area

Would like to work with schools

Grants etc. -- is working with USDA, Timeline: purchase land this year; clear and prep plant next year.

Doing seed orchard over a couple of years good.

We have planting opportunities in the spring. Sean can come look at what is involved.

YF can show him URI Master Gardener projects like the pollinator area, the Edible Forest Garden, etc.

Tantasqua school area

Plan to make F1s this year

Brian -- Orchard Reports/Planning

Mass F&W may exclusively allow us to expand south.

4 new plots, lots of replacements

Storage for mower isn't ideal

Norcross Grant: Jamie proposes that we use it for the MassWildlife Expansion

Frost heaving at orchard: seedlings lifted partly out of ground; no snow cover

Rufin has been visiting orchard weekly

Teaching people to plant: we need to have them do it with supervision first; it is hard for people to learn all the steps correctly by just watching.

Culling seedlings in seed orchards: Jamie suggests we cut, cover with pots to keep light out.

Work party planned; weed & preen early

Lois to meet with Marion re. signage etc.

Westboro Land Trust

John Emery's Orchards: Mark M. plans to help John E. Needs bamboo poles
John does a lot of work, Mark, Dave

Granville: fertilizing, possible replanting needs

Doing green manure crop supplies

John has contacted Westville State U. professor, has undergrads, will get professor up to look at orchard; John hopes to build local support; talk

Smith College: light year; depends upon weather

Hiring 3 students for Macleish for month of June

Mostly planted up.

Pulling tubes helps with weeding; Paul pulls after 2 feet or so.

Kendra says wait another year.

Stockbridge orchard: Rufin -- Craig Moffit would like multiple types of chestnut spp. and chinquapin. Can someone send letter to Laurel Hill re. arboretum setup.

Breeding orchard rogues, still producing. New plantings would take a while to grow.

Chinese: can we get seedlings? Brian has seeds.

Greg Miller has *trees* -- Chinese seedlings.

We need 400 older, 200 new.

Yvonne will contact Greg Miller.

John Mirick is taking care of his orchard nicely. We need a new attorney.

Springside Park: one plot to be done. 235 for replanting. Bob helps.

Rhode Island South Kingstown: Can do up to 4 new plots.

Work party -- URI-MGP does but shall we do one too?

Gray -- Scraggy Neck -- MOU -- 18 seeds/year?

BTK spray -- for small trees

Gypsy Moths

Winter Moths

Could be a bad year for both. Will depend upon weather.

Bristol Aggie: YF will ask whether we can do

Bulk order of moisture control Scotts stuff -- YF would like help getting that to Bristol Aggie

Kendra off: March-June. Our ducks need to be lined up this month. Sara will help with DB, breeding issues.

She will be inoculating in June but would like to know in advance what will be needed.

Littleton rating. Jamie needs to do roguing. Burn pile in orchard. Wants to get everything down. YF would like to come get sections of wood for gardening work.

Brian: nuts -- could do 6 plots if had another Graves block
Can we do this many at Bristol Aggie?

Stacked resistance: 1/2 acre size?

300 trees

Will compare Graves x Clapper vs. Graves vs. Clapper

Seed orchard in Granville -- getting close to inoculation size

About 80% of seed orchard plot needs to be 1" at 18 inches diameter above ground

Lois will talk to Norwell person about stacked resistance

Orchards info into website

Lunch

Afternoon Board Meeting 1pm

Communications Report: Yvonne

New Chapter & National Website draft -- presented by Yvonne

Numerous suggestions

Committee:

Lois, Yvonne, Kathy, Sean, Gray

Treasurer Report: Paul Wetzel

Accepted unanimously

We would like to ask Michael how we can get someone to "shadow" his work and completely understand his procedures

Secretary Report: Kathy Desjardin

TACF Esprout: Tantasqua photos! We will send in.

Motion to accept Secretary's Report unanimously accepted

Orchard Development Report: Brian went over in morning

President's Report: Lois

Tantasqua -- recipes! Lois et al. meet with them weekly

MA/RI-TACF 2017 Meeting Dates:

April 22,

July 16,

Oct. 21,

Nov. 18

Strategic Planning

Lois, Dennis, Yvonne, Brian, Karen, Brad Smith,
March date TBD

Student directors / Board participation discussion

Sheet with draft ideas for Jr. & Sr. Student "directors" was distributed (thanks to Josh Soojian)

2 levels: Jr. & Sr.

Make older person a voting member?

Tantasqua school has a chestnut club.

Will student be member of TACF?

Kathy Marmet (Chair, TACF Education Committee) gave Tantasqua a gift membership

Kristen and Jessie -- give memberships to them?

Sean: getting kids involved can help membership in 10 years

Let's pass this by Jessie:

Have Tantasqua host a meeting? Invite them to a meeting hosted by Norcross?

Senior Student Board Member or Grad Student / intern -- Josh and Yvonne can work on?

Somewhat separate issue from Tantasqua

Tantasqua needs another line (of Nanking pollen?)

Manton request: Brian compiling

Equipment Needs: Ladder for Mark and Dave

Rufin has a ladder that Mark and Dave can use

Planting new BC3s at Wayland a possibility; equipment would be needed

Plastic shed to go in at Westboro

Plan to make F1s this year

Demo plantings:

Wachusett Meadow?

Can we get seeds from Rufin's Legacy tree?

Greenhill Park

Bullard Farm (done)

Wayside Inn (check)
Chestnut Lodge
Boston Food Forest (3 given)
Revive the Roots (3+2)
Green School RI (5)
IMS Inside Meditation Society (John Meiklejohn) -- if we have seed to plant

We need to see how many we'll get
Check what's left at Bristol Aggie

Outreach: news, write articles

Motion: Board formally supports 30-year MOUs to partner with landowners
Unanimously approved

(As a general approach, we are already doing this -- we wanted it in minutes)

Sterling/Sunnyside orchard: 2 lines; lots of resprouts

Paul re-applied for the USDA APHIS permit

We already have this with other landowners

Meeting Adjourned 3:30

New contact for website work:
Shaun Parker 978-808-3323